

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03730 051431Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8556

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3730

EXDIS TREAT AS NODIS

FOR ATTENTION OF ASST. SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJ: WEIZMAN ON SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 1785; (B) TEL AVIV 8113; (C) JERUSALEM 1674

1. MESSAGE IN REF A THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT BE WILLING TO HAVE ILMAC DISCUSSIONS AND MIGHT BE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH IS PRETTY DISHEARTENING. BECAUSE OF CRISIS HERE, I HAVE NOT HAD CHANCE TO SEE BOUTROS, BUT GIVEN SYRIAN EMPHASIS ON MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO SOUTH, I EXPECT ISSUE TO BE RAISED WITH US SOON.

2. WHEN I SAW PRESIDENT SARKIS ON JUNE 30, I TOLD HIM WE HAD RECEIVED REPORT OF AMBASSADOR LEWIS'S DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT WITH WEIZMAN AND THAT ISRAELIS DID NOT BELIEVE LEBANESE COULD IN FACT MOVE TROOPS SOUTH. PRESIDENT SAID PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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SENT INCIDENTS AROUND BEIRUT WERE NOT IMPEDIMENT AND THAT GOL WAS READY TO SEND TROOPS. THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT I SUSPECT SYRIANS ARE GOING TO PUSH HARD WITH LEBANESE. IF THEY DO, THEY MAY PRECIPITATE CRISIS OVER HADDAD, BUT PERHAPS SYRIANS HOPE TO HAVE KATA'IB AND CHAMOUNISTS NEUTRALIZED MILITARILY. THEY STILL HAVE THE ISRAELIS TO WORRY ABOUT, OF COURSE.

3. OUR TROUBLES WITH SOUTH LEBANON BEGAN WITH OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO TALK TOUGH TO THE ISRAELIS WHEN THEY GOT TOUGH ABOUT SYRIAN TROOPS IN NABATIYAH EARLY IN 1977. WE HAD GOOD REASONS; WE USUALLY DO. IT WAS A MISTAKE, NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS HAVE PARLAYED THEIR VETO OVER A SYRIAN PRESENCE INTO HEGEMONY OVER THE SOUTH. IN THEIR CLASSIC TACTIC OF CREATING FAITS ACOMPLIS, THEY HAVE CARVED OUT A SET OF SERVITUDES WHICH NOW BECOME INALIENABLY THEIRS: THE GOOD FENCE, THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE TO PROTECT THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGERS, A VETO OVER THE ENTRY OF THE LEBANESE ARMY, ETC. NOW, WHAT'S THEIRS IS THEIRS, AND WHAT'S LEBANON'S IS NEGOTIABLE.

4. PERHAPS WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO ACQUIESCENCE, BUT I REALLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW WE ARE EVER GOING TO GET THE ISRAELIS TO COME UP WITH A PEACE WHICH THE ARABS CAN ACCEPT, IF WE CANNOT GET THE ISRAELIS TO AGREE TO FACILITATE THE ENTRY OF THE OFFICIAL LEBANESE ARMY INTO AN AREA THEY RECOGNIZE AS SOBEREIGN LEBANESE TERRITORY.

5. WHAT DOES DEPARTMENT THINK I SHOULD SAY TO BOUTROS ABOUT LEWIS-WEIZMAN CONVERSATION? PARKER

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